

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 05730 262210Z

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 NSF-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

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DEPT PASS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, US, AR

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF U.S.-ARGENTINA SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL
COOPERATION AGREEMENT

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5711

1. EMBASSY HAS CHECKED WITH FEDERICO CROSS, OUTGOING CONICET INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CHIEF AND DE FACTO COORDINATOR FOR U.S.-ARGENTINE S&T BILATERAL CONCERNING STATUS OF JOINT PROJECTS DISCUSSED AT JUNE 30 FELLER-CROSS MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES. BASICALLY, CROSS REPORTS NO RPT NO CHANGE IN FUNDING SITUATION ON ARGENTINE SIDE. ONLY THE SEIDEL-DE LA CRUZ LOW TEMPERATURE PHYSICS PROJECT HAS APPROVED FUNDING ON ARGENTINE SIDE. THE FRANKEL-MISETICH MAGNETISM PROJECT HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE GEO-HELIOPHYSICS COMMISSION AND THE PROJECT WILL BE RESUBMITTED. CROSS FEELS THAT THE VILLAMAYOR-MOUNT MATH SEMINARS WILL CONTINUE TO PROVE DIFFICULT TO FUND ON THE ARGENTINE SIDE.

2. S&T COUNSELOR IS REQUESTING EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH NEW S&T SECRETARY CAVOTI TO DISCUSS CONTINUING AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION. AS CAVOTI WAS KEY GOA S&T AUTHORITY WHEN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED AND IS BELIEVED TO BE STRONG SUPPORTER OF U.S.-ARGENTINE COOPERATION IN S&T, WE THINK
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 05730 262210Z

AT THIS POINT THAT LONG RANGE PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED

IMPLEMENTATION ARE QUITE GOOD. IN SHORT RANGE, SEVERE ECONOMIC CONDITION OF COUNTRY AND NEED FOR AUSTERITY LIKELY TO INHIBIT ARGENTINE ABILITY TO COOPERATE AND TO MOVE AHEAD WITH OTHER PROJECTS, REGARDLESS OF CAVOTI'S ATTITUDES.

3. FOREIGN MINISTRY SCIENCE COMMISSION DIRECTOR MOLINARI REMAINS OFFICIAL GOA EXECUTIVE AGENT FOR BILATERAL. COUNSELOR MAROLLO, WHO HAS BEEN CHIEF FONMIN ACTION OFFICER UNDER MOLINARI, IS BEING ASSIGNED ABROAD. IT NOT CLEAR AT THIS POINT WHETHER CULTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR BILATERAL PREVIOUSLY ASSIGNED TO CROSS WILL NOW REVERT TO HIS SUCCESSOR, NORBERTO O. CIARRAPICO, OR BE RETAINED WITH S&T SECRETARIAT, BUT, WE HOPE TO CLARIFY THIS SOON WITH CAVOTI.

4. IF NSF HAS ANY OUTSTANDING MATTERS TO HANDLE WITH CROSS BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, THIS SHOULD BE DONE THIS WEEK. POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED NSF FUNDING AND MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF PROPOSED PROJECTS ARE STILL OUTSTANDING ITEMS ON WHICH CROSS HAS BEEN AWAITING WORD. IN ANY CASE, RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE NSF LETTERS TO CROSS THANKING HIM FOR HIS COOPERATION AND TO CAVOTI WISHING HIM WELL ON HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT.
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